



April 22, 2026

Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

Thank you for consideration of our comments relating to **SB26-140, Prescription Drug Affordability Board Exempt Rare Disease Drugs**. National Jewish Health supports the bill and urges you to do likewise.

National Jewish Health is the leading respiratory hospital in the nation. We serve by providing the best integrated and innovative care for patients and their families; by understanding and finding cures for the diseases we research; and by educating and training the next generation of health care professionals to be leaders in medicine and science.

During the first round of PDAB affordability reviews in the summer and fall of 2024, National Jewish Health provided expert testimony and guidance to the Board on the unique nature of the rare disease drug, Trikafta. Our physicians in the cystic fibrosis clinic are at the forefront of treating patients with this amazing, life-changing drug.

It is hard to emphasize the profound impact that the PDAB review of Trikafta had on our patients and caregivers. The process revealed how very vulnerable they feel with even the possibility that such a life-saving drug could be withdrawn because of PDAB actions.

During this process CF patients shared their traumatic memories of fighting for life with CF pre-Trikafta. They spoke of a lifetime battle with the disease and described managing CF as a full-time job. In addition, they stated that the very experience of needing to remember and retell their stories as traumatic, painful, stressful and PTSD-inducing.

Although the outcome of that distressing process was that PDAB declined to review Trikafta, the Division staff stated on the record that it would remain on the list for future consideration. This only continues the sense of uncertainty and fear for patients.

Rare disease drugs impact fewer than 200,000 people across the country. We assert that the focus of the PDAB should rightfully be on drugs that impact a larger population.

We stand with rare disease advocates in support of an exemption from PDAB of rare disease drugs. We know firsthand how critical these medications are to treating rare diseases and saving lives. This bill provides hope for patients and families with rare diseases by maintaining access to the life-saving and life-changing treatments. This also works to ensure the continued development of groundbreaking drugs by encouraging ongoing research and development.

We respectfully ask you to support SB26140.

Thank you,

Leading Respiratory Hospital in the Nation



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